

Ecology for Peace Research Villages



 **SolarVillage**
Tamera

Ecology

A model project for landscape healing, for Holzer's Permaculture and for training in the Peace Research Centre Tamera in Portugal.

VISIT...

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A warm welcome to the Ecology Project of Tamera

by Silke Paulick, Coordinator of the Ecology Team



We have big plans. Big plans that make the heart beat with joy and excitement, since our times require big steps for healing to occur.

Walking through Tamera today I can already see the beginning of the picture as we cultivate it in our vision: a landscape blossoming with vitality, an abundant diversity of flora and fauna, a well-designed interplay of the elements, a living space that radiates health.

A land whose abundance can feed all its inhabitants.

We work on the development of a model for landscape healing. A water landscape is forming, surrounded by permaculture gardens, or an "edible landscape" as we prefer to call it.

In this context I want to thank the Austrian Permaculture specialist Sepp Holzer for his support. In his exemplary work in the area of ecology, he inspires and motivates people to powerfully enter into a healing cooperation between human beings and nature.

I have been living and working in Tamera for the past ten years and I have witnessed the constant growth in the area of ecology:

The reforestation and the building of green oases, which we people need for the well being of our souls.

The building and maintenance of special power places, which help the landscape to gain health and balance at a subtle spiritual and energetic frequency level. They also provide human beings with spaces that serve their reconnection to the Earth and Creation as a whole.

In our contact with animals we walk the "path of cooperation". The aim of the research in this field is to step out entirely of all incomprehension and maltreatment humans direct towards their fellow creatures and instead enter into a relationship of acknowledgment, cooperation and joy with each other.

I recognize the impulse of many people to now actively participate in the development of our world. This too is part of our work: to create a place where one can see, feel and learn what life in harmony with nature can look like and how human intervention can create power and health.

The term sustainability gains fulfillment through human beings' experience to be able to support life in all its complexity.

I wish you much inspiration while reading this paper and thank you for your interest.

Tamera, July 2009





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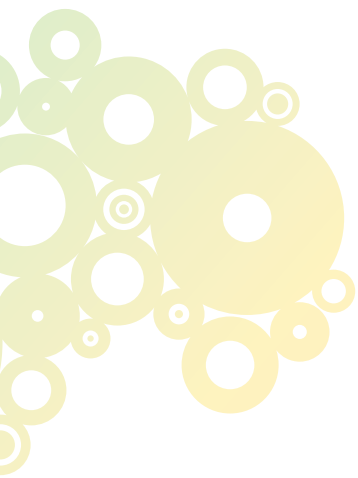
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Tamera, Portugal



Tamera, Portugal



Extremadura, Spain





Colombia

"If we should want to survive the ecological and social crisis that we have brought about, we would be required to engage ourselves in completely new and dramatic community undertakings"

Lynn Margulis



Alentejo, Portugal

Before planet Earth turns into a Desert: Why we have to act now?

by **Barbara Kovats**

Coordinator of the SolarVillage Project Group, Tamera

The ecological situation of planet Earth is dramatic. The destruction of rain forests, oceans and ecological systems, the expansion of deserts, the daily disappearance of animal species, hunger and the beginning of wars for water are all symptoms and direct consequences of the way we humans live and operate economically which has lost all integration within the cycles of nature.

Modern human beings treat the soil, the plants, the water and the animals in such a dissociated way and with total lack of contact, as if they have forgotten what life is and how it needs to be treated.

Nature answers – storms and floods are only the beginning of an extensive climate catastrophe, which already has become a painful reality for people in many places on the globe. Forecasts for the Iberian peninsula are clear: Spain and Portugal will become deserts if we do not act now.

The coming changes will be drastic and affect all areas of life. People are not prepared for the extent of the changes ahead of them. But does this mean that these turmoils are necessary along with panic, wars and violence? Or, will we have created special places by then where we can learn on a global scale how to handle conflicts and to solve them peacefully, how to produce energy in a decentralized way, how to treat nature and earth in a way to produce healthy food and water abundantly.

This kind of knowledge already exist in many places. However, often its is still too unusual to be applied as yet. The main things missing are: networks of dissemination, the inter-linking of this

knowledge, its factual application in practice, at least in an exemplary way at some places in the world, as well as a lack of educational facilities to teach the youth of the next generation.

Tamera is an educational center and an experimental field for the development of Peace Research Villages and their worldwide distribution. In an exemplary approach, we research and study living possibilities for the human being to be re-integrated into the whole of Creation, where separation is overcome at all levels – separation between human beings, between generations, between fields of knowledge, separation from nature and from the spiritual source. The creation of such Peace Research Villages - or so called Healing Biotores - develop, combine and manifest knowledge and methods for approaches in the fields of technology, ecology and energy production, for conflict resolution and community building and for spiritual life practice and ecological architecture.

Currently, about 160 people from various parts of the world are living and studying in Tamera. Among other projects, an energy-autonomous model village, the "SolarVillage" is under development: an ecologically and socially sustainable model settlement that can be copied and applied in areas of the world with intensive sun radiation.

The work and the research of the Austrian Permaculture specialist Sepp Holzer, his knowledge of cooperation with nature, his intuition and experience with the production of natural foodstuffs and with the revitalization and healing of the land, we



Alentejo, Portugal

consider a promising and very central part of the research for the development of Peace Research Villages. His work in Valdepajares del Tajo in the Extremadura region in Spain in 2007 gives rise to much hope that something similar is also possible here in Portugal.

Meanwhile, hope has turned into experience. At Tamera the water landscape, as proposed by Sepp Holzer is becoming a reality and already after one growth period, the possibility of revitalizing desolate ground has proven successful. Wild animals are adapting to this the new living environment, fruit trees flourish in the wide shore zones as well as a great variety of vegetables, herbs and medicinal plants.

Tamera is an example for Portugal and indeed for all of Southern Europe both in terms of its beauty and of the degree of ecological destruction with which it has to cope. The ecological healing and

revitalization project for this place can and will set impulses for the entire region. Exemplary solutions which are functioning at this Peace Research Center will be transferred to the home countries of the Tamera students and are intended to be applied there in the development of further Peace Research Villages.

How could the planet look like when, to begin with, in each of its countries and in varying vegetation zones at least one site would be operable where the knowledge, the seeds and the variety of nature would be tended to and cared for and were a shining example would serve whole regions as a trigger for innovation?

We are invite interested and committed people to acquire an overview of our project by studying this brochure and to get in touch with us.

Please help to make this vision become a reality!





Alentejo, Portugal

The Basic Idea of Tamera: Those who don't want war need a vision for peace

The emphasis of the research and the experience in Tamera are on community knowledge and community building and on social competence and conflict resolution. Together, these disciplines form the focus of the educational program of Tamera. Sepp Holzer's view of community building in nature is largely true for community among human beings too. Its ethical orientation is truth among its members, mutual support and responsible participation in the whole. It is not individualization and separation from others that promotes individuality but cooperation and authentic communication. In Tamera we are, so to say, investigating and studying the human inside of a healthy ecology.

Five Basic Thoughts from "Is Peace Possible – The Future Experiment, Monte Cerro' " by Dieter Duhm

First: The outer (economic, military) violence executed today against nature, peoples and the biosphere is connected to an inner (of the soul and the mind/spirit) corrosion and a loss of roots regarding human life on earth. The ecological and the psychological/spiritual destruction are two sides of the same general problem: Only by looking at them at them jointly can they be rightly understood and solved.

Second: The human problems deriving from this destruction are the consequence of a collective disease which besets all of civilisation and cannot be solved at an individual level only. The "therapy" requires the building of new human and ecological life systems.

Third: A peace project can only effect as much peace in the outer world as it has been able to effect in its human inner world. Part of the outer work is therefore the inner work in the sense of self-change of all concerned.

Fourth: Inner healing requires a healing in the realm of love where the deepest injuries are to be found.

Fifth: The necessary healing work requires an all-encompassing cooperation between the human being and all creatures of nature and the embedding of human society into the higher orders of life and Creation.





Pilgrimage in 2007, Israel

"A non-violent ecology cannot be developed without developing a new relationship with our own inner nature."

Dieter Duhm



Alentejo, Portugal

The Outset of the Tamera Location

Tamera is located in the South of Portugal, in the Department of the Alentejo, one of the least densely populated areas in Europe, at about 30 kilometers linear distance from the Portuguese West coast. The 134-hectares-site consists of a hilly landscape with cork oaks, eucalyptus forests, bush, grazing and gardening land. The soil, mostly clay, is permeated with layers of schist. Long ago the natural cover of this landscape was a mediterranean hard leaf forest, which in its variety is comparable to a tropical rain forest.

What happened during the last decades in Monte do Cerro (the original name of the property) is the evidence of extensive exploitation and the indifference of modern man towards nature much the same or similar as can be seen in Spain, in Europe as a whole and in most parts of the world.

Already before the water landscape was constructed, Tamera had several natural springs and ponds as well as a rain water catchment area of about 500 hectares. And although the average annual rainfall amounts to 600 mm, water was lacking during the

hot summers. A large part of the winter rain drained off immediately from the site, unused and washing the remaining fertile topsoil with it.

To a great extent the land has lost its capacity for water retention. This is caused through overgrazing and the subsequent compaction of the soil. Deforestation (dying of cork oaks and cutting of trees) and the depletion of the vegetation as a result of monocultures are the cause of this.

It is a vicious cycle: The less water retention power a landscape has, the fewer plants grow. The thinner the vegetation layer becomes, the lower the water retention power of the soil.

The water situation of the whole country as well as that of the whole Iberian Peninsula is deteriorating. The annual winter rainfalls become decreasingly reliable. Devastating forest fires in the eucalyptus and other tree monocultures in the whole region are a consequence which additionally aggravates the situation.

Forecasts are therefore drastic: Spain and Portugal are turning into deserts.





Extremadura, Spain

"Holzer's Permaculture is landscape design in a larger context. Correct the mistakes of past, enable the symbioses of mutual effects, let nature work, reestablish natural cycles."

Sepp Holzer



Extremadura, Spain

The Basic Ideas of the Holzer's Permaculture and its Application

Who is Sepp Holzer?

Sepp Holzer is an unyielding mountain farmer from the Austrian region of Lungau, who has preserved his own authentic ability of perception. With this gift he has since early childhood developed his very own way of agriculture without at the time being aware that in the world this is known under the name of "permaculture". With an open heart and an alert mind he knows how to engage nature to be his cooperation partner. He is also called the "agricultural rebel" since nothing can deter him from following the impulses he receives in his contact with nature, even though they frequently contradict the generally recognized doctrines.

Meanwhile his work is met with large international interest. He works on projects in different climate zones all over the world.

It is his interest to always wake people up in order to take on responsibility for the health of planet Earth and for the improvement of their social situations by dealing with nature in an appropriate way.

Reading nature's book:

every situation holds its own solution

Sepp Holzer says: The possibility to cooperate with nature, to regulate it and to cultivate exist with every type of land, be it a fertile river valley in a temperate latitude, be it in the tundra or in the desert, always in accordance with the land and its inhabitants.

Holzer's Permaculture is not a method that offers the same procedures for every situation. On the contrary, its central idea is to observe nature, is to put oneself in the position of its creatures and from this understanding to recognize from within which measures have to be taken which will have a healing and meaningful impact.

Sepp Holzer: "Nature's book always contains the truth; we must only learn to read it."

An Inuit will arrive at a different solution than does an inhabitant of the desert or someone in the rain forest of Central America. And yet there are recurring principles and experiences to learn from.



Seminar in Tamera



Sepp Holzer on the Krameterhof



Tamera, Portugal

A few examples are mentioned here. For those who wish to inform themselves more in depth, we recommend the books by Sepp Holzer.

Economy and ecology:

“Use nature, but do not exploit it.”

“If one has land, then one should use it fully and not let it lie fallow. It is our responsibility to do something with it; that is why it was given to us.” This is the conviction of Sepp Holzer. There is no contradiction between economy, ecology, agriculture and environmental protection. Whether one deals with extensive or intensive cultivation, those who understand how to use nature and partake in its abundance, also economically, will work effectively for its protection. Thus, the interest in nature’s health will never collide with safeguarding one’s own survival.

Sepp Holzer has learned this from the bottom up as a mountain farmer and he is convinced that the human being can survive only if it pays attention to and uses nature’s knowledge.

When he redesigns grounds he has three things in view: the dream of the land and its creatures, the provision of its inhabitants with healthy and fresh foodstuffs and the possibility of planting something special for trade.

The combination of self-sufficiency and the specialization on a product which can be brought to the market is one element of an interlinked regional self-sufficiency. Regional self-sufficiency is a necessity for survival. Building decentralized structures is a central part of a new settlement structure.

Together is better than alone:

The symbiosis of interdependencies

In nature, monocultures only appear rarely and under extreme, often already unbalanced conditions. Border zones with a great variety of species are the most productive zones.

Between the different plants and animals of a biotope exists a variety of symbioses which have hardly been researched scientifically. Different plants exploit different light, soil, nutrition and water conditions in such a way as to optimally use all resources and small ecological niches. One plant secretes a substance that will keep pests away from another. The waste product from one is nutrition for another. Birdsong promotes plant growth.

“A forest is more than the sum of its trees.” Or: “Together is better than alone.”

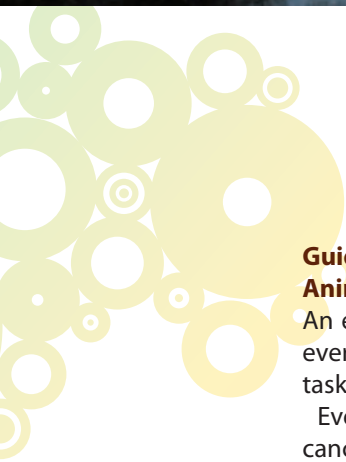
Biotopes are supporting communities. In interaction with the whole of nature, optimal supporting communities develop on their own.

Sepp Holzer therefore does not primarily cultivate a particular kind of field crop rather, he designs optimal conditions for biotopes to be able to form.

He therefore never sows only one type of plant but always adds the seeds of supporting plants. These can be nitrogen attracting plants such as peas or root vegetables which loosen up the earth, or else poisonous plants, whose root excretions add flavor to vegetables and enhance their healing powers. The human being is the guiding and perceiving part of a biotope. He/she takes part in its symbiotic interplay and learns to intervene in the community of creatures in an observant and healing way.



Tamera, Portugal



Guide nature, do not fight it: Animals as collaborators

An ecosystem unfolds its full biotope force when every being is in its right place. The human being's task is to guide nature, not to fight it.

Every being that appears in a biotope has significance. If so-called pests appear, Sepp Holzer does not ask: How can I get rid of them? But instead he asks: What are they good for? How can I use them? The human being has the ability to give all the components of a biotope the place and task that best serves the whole.

What does this mean for example with regard to pest infestations or with regard to an excess of certain wild herbs?

First of all, they are valuable indicators about the condition the grounds are in. Based on them, Sepp Holzer draws conclusions. These indicators are signals that something needs to be changed. Maybe the vegetables are in a place that is too moist? Maybe this soil was too fat for the soft fruits, or the clearing too shady for apples?

The next question is always: How can I make use of a negative condition? How do I guide the forces of nature so that they work for me?

Animals play an important role in Sepp Holzer's Permaculture. Whether dealing with wild or domestic animals, for Sepp Holzer they have to "work". For a hog, this may mean that it has to dig into a thicket of blackberries to find its fodder - for example legumes that have been rolled in lard. Doing this the hog will uproot the blackberries, tears up the soil, fertilizes it and thus creates the conditions for sowing or for planting fruit trees for example. For the hog this work means health and joy of life. It is a natural way of keeping this animal rather than locking it away in a pigsty.

Successful cooperation with animals saves work which the human being would otherwise have to carry out with tools, machines or fertilizers.

Increasing soil fertility by establishing water retention basins

In Holzer's Permaculture water is given the highest





Lake 1, beginning of construction, Tamera, Portugal

degree of attention. Water is more valuable than land. The value of a piece of land is directly dependent on its water supply and its ability to store water. This is especially true for regions that are threatened by desertification, such as for example Southern Europe.

Water is life

Everywhere, where wetlands, lakes, rivers and ponds exist, a natural diversity of animals and plants thrive.

Sepp Holzer's method of using rain water and keeping it on the land consists, above all, of creating water landscapes of connecting retention spaces. (lat. *retenire* = to hold back). From these the water soaks deeply into the soil and saturates the surrounding body of earth thus contributing to increased dew formation and sustainably improving the ground water.

Water retention spaces are the ideal foundation for the creation of edible landscapes, forest gardens with fruit and nut trees and other plant biotopes in the immediate vicinity of the water spaces. Water that enters the roots directly from the earth promotes and supports the growth of the roots and therefore of the whole plant in a better way than does above-ground irrigation. If needed, the water from the lakes is still available for year-round irrigation. It is close to where it is needed and does not require long ditches and pipes.

In addition it is possible to grow a large variety of water plants in and around the water spaces. They serve to purify the water, they are edible or they can be sold and they provide a living environment for fish and other animals.

Creating water retention spaces (rather than retention basins) is a one-time measure and is, so to speak, the foundation for the subsequent establishment of biotopes.

To do this, Sepp Holzer does not hesitate to work with heavy equipment since the transformation of an area always begins with careful and perceptive observation and a carefully elaborated overall plan.

Experiences and principles regarding the "work with water"

As much intervention as necessary, as little as possible. Sealing the ground with foil or concrete is not only superfluous but also damaging.

The creation of lakes and ponds should always make use of the natural conditions. They should never look artificial or be designed in rectangular shapes. Holzer: "If a lake looks as if it had arisen naturally, we have done it right."

The way the water retention spaces have been built, their forms and shapes, support the self-cleaning forces of the water.

Some ponds and lakes have a feed-in basin, in which floating particles can settle down to form a fertile silt. The ponds will then be clear and the feed-in basins become valuable reservoirs of humus that can be dredged every now and again.

The protection afforded by plants and different zones of depth make it possible to keep predatory and prey fish together in a lake: a natural self-regulation is possible.

Also for pond and water plants the rule is: diversity is better than uniformity.

The shore areas of the lakes are zones of great productivity and are excellent ground to grow vegetables.

Varying water depths and shades provide for different temperature and vegetation zones which bring many ecological advantages.



Lake 1, Tamera, Portugal

The Project of the Water Landscape in Tamera

In winter 2006/2007 the Tamera community decided to take a big step forward in its plan for self-sufficiency with regard to foodstuffs, particularly fruit and vegetables. This decision was and still is strongly motivated by the political wish to step out of the globalized supply cycles which cause so much suffering.

During a trip to Spain in January 2007 a group from Tamera made the acquaintance of Sepp Holzer (see experience report s. 21). His work had already been known to Tamera and had caused much enthusiasm.

In March of the same year Sepp Holzer and his wife Veronika Holzer visit Tamera to view the land and to address the questions of landscape healing and of the development of self-sufficiency in the area of food supply. During this visit Sepp Holzer drafts a vision of an ecological model project for the healing and revitalization of the landscape and the supply of food for several hundred people, including fruits, vegetables, herbs and medicinal plants.

In the community this vision meets with a lot of resonance as it fits perfectly with their own pictures of a new future. Very soon they decide to go ahead with the plan and put it into practice. More

and more people from the community grasp how essential the right type of water management is for the healing of nature; this brings forth a strong power for manifestation.

Planning and practical preparations begin, inquiries are made and official authorizations are applied for. In August of 2007 the development of the waterlandscape begins with the construction of the first large retention space.

The work is done by six Tamera co-workers and a regional construction company.

Three months later the construction is finished and the first mixed seeds are sown on the new shore slopes and terraces. In winter hundreds of different berry bushes as well as forest and fruit trees are planted, again along the shore, among them old regional varieties. In addition different direct seeds of fruit and forest trees are put in the ground.





Tamera, Portugal

Special work consist of setting stones in the shore areas of the newly developed biotope. To enhance the energy and the design, large stones are placed in selected places. These old marble boulders from nearby quarries with their impressive shapes, apart from looking beautiful, add to the task of creating a new and varied micro climate. They store heat, give shade and preserve moisture. The initial layout is finished.

In the course of the following year the development of the aquaculture is carried on. Since then a great variety of water purification plants have been cultivated. The cultivation of water lilies and other water plants are intended for sale and for the provision of sufficient plants for the next retention spaces to be built.

As soon as the so-called "Lake 1" begins to fill up with water it can be observed how wild animals adopt to the new living space. Turtles, frogs, crabs, and fish rapidly animate the new biotope and shortly after even the foot prints of the European otter are to be found.

The shore terraces are worked and vegetables are harvested already all year round while the fo-

cus is still on developing the soil. We also start to produce our own seeds, an important element of permaculture.

Parallel to this, the construction of the second retention space, the integration of the so-called "valley garden" into the waterlandscape, is underway.

In autumn 2008 the construction work is finished, again followed by sowing mixed cultures and the planting of fruit trees and bushes.

Also in autumn of 2008 a Series of Seminars for the Teaching of Sepp Holzer's Permaculture is launched.

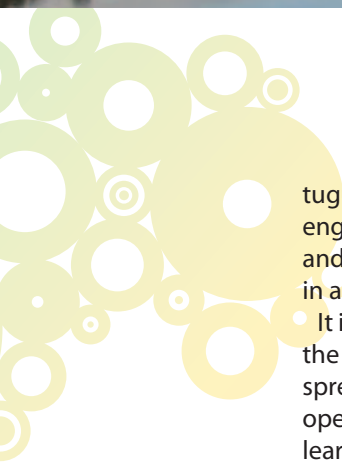
In the seminars, together with the Ecology Team of Tamera, Sepp Holzer teaches his approach of working with nature both in theory and practice. The target of the training is to educate committed people to become permaculture specialists who know that landscape healing can be practiced worldwide on both a large and a small scale.

A regular element of the seminars is an "open day" where interested people are invited to a guided tour through the Tamera water landscape to get an insight into the effects of this work. Among the visitors of these tours are lecturers from Por-





Tamera, Portugal



tuguese universities, Alentejo school teachers, engineers, biologists, students as well as farmers and landowners who are searching for new ways in agriculture.

- It is most moving to experience how quickly after the intervention in the landscape a new sound spreads across the land. The healing perspectives open to the land can be sensed, if only humans learn how to deal with nature in the right way.

The complete picture of the water landscape includes the building of further retention spaces in the western part of the grounds, the southern valley and the center of Tamera. The different retention spaces will be linked with each other by overflows and creeks thus creating varying water cycles which can be moved with solar driven pumps at any given time.

The healing and revitalization in the southern part will be combined with a new drinking water and irrigation supply.

The next step is the construction of a testfield for the SolarVillage, which will be embedded in the center of the waterlandscape. Here the research on solar technology, permaculture and communi-

tarian social structures are to merge and come to life.

Financing

We are most grateful for the financial support that was forthcoming to facilitate the steps. People from all walks of life made financial contributions to the project. They are moved by the vision and strongly committed to a new future.

For the further realization of the venture additional donors and sponsors are invited to participate.

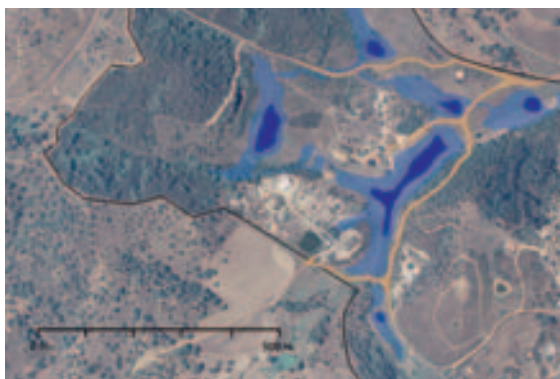
Thank you for your support!

The Tamera Ecology Team





Extremadura, Spain



The plans from above to below: The Tamera compound (detail) before the work started, the water retention spaces build in 2007 and 2008. The plan of the Water Landscape as it will present itself in the centre of the grounds in the near future.



Extremadura, Spain

A finca in the Extremadura: An Example of the Use of Holzer's Permaculture in Spain

In January of 2007 a delegation from Tamera visited the finca.

Dörthe Goschin

The successful reshaping of a semi-arid landscape into a water paradise with a lush plant biotope:

South of Madrid, in the middle of the Spanish Extremadura region, which is acutely threatened by desertification, a successful example of the revitalization of a biotope can be found. Based on Holzer's Permaculture concept, the 270 ha [675 acre] finca is a pioneer model for a green future on the Iberian Peninsula.

Long periods of drought and massive soil erosion caused by strong winter rainfalls led to the desertification of the landscape. This was the initial situation when an analysis was made and a concept developed for a sustainable renaturation of the property. One of the focuses of the cause analysis was concerned with the dramatic increase in dying holly oak trees during the past few years throughout all of Spain. The scientific explanation of a virus infection was subject to examination. The situation of the holly oaks in Extremadura is very similar to that of the cork oaks in the Alentejo.

When looking at the question of why the holly oak was dying, Sepp Holzer arrived at a surprisingly simple and logical answer. In his opinion, the agrarian economical development during the last 50 years has led to an extremely high overall strain on the oak population, a large part of which is hundreds of years old. He pointed out the coarse way the trees are cut leaving a large "wound" behind. This leads to the familiar damages the trees suffer

from: disruption to the tree's capillary system in contact with air, fungi infestation of the weakened tree and colonization with wood beetles whose larvae create burrows and decay inside of the tree. Finally, the tree dies.

This process is favored by the extreme environmental conditions. Originally the Mediterranean hard leaf tree, the oak tree, is used to long periods of dryness. However, through the past decades of overgrazing the soil has become extremely dense, despite strong rainfalls in winter. The water hardly penetrates the soil, instead, it runs off the surface. Additionally the grazing animals decimate the plant diversity and prevent the growth of a young forest. Therefore the layer of humus lacks the stability that derives from the roots, and exposed to wind and rain is subject to strong soil erosion. This cycle creates a general stress situation for the veteran oaks and weakens their power of regeneration.

To Sepp Holzer, this chain of influences shows that the theory of a virus infection is an old wives' tale. He shakes his head over the suggested inoculation of the trees and over the prevailing blindness towards the writing in "nature's book".

For the regeneration of the entire area of this "tree graveyard", he thus suggested a radical change in the utilization concept. An important step was the discontinuation of pasture grazing to revitalize the ground and initiate the development of new forestation. Supporting measures were added, such





Seminar in Tamera, Portugal

as the systematic plowing of the compacted soil in order to provide good soil for the tree seeds to germinate in; followed by reforestation of a mixed cultivation of fruit trees and supporting plants, like salads, legumes and root vegetables, this supported the improvement of the soil climate, and accelerated the creation of a natural layer of humus.

When visiting the place again after a planting period of one year where

Holzer's ideas were applied, we were already able to walk through large parts of a fertile edible landscape set in the midst of the frugal Extremadura region. Under the trees in the middle of a meadow radishes and salads were growing. They thrived splendidly and were delicious to eat during our long walks across the property.

Even more impressive was the change in the landscape due to the many lakes that had been built during the past two years. Filled by the winter rains, they gently fit into landscape like a row of pearls. The abundance of water fowl and the glittering of the lakes and ponds which are up to 10 hectares [25 acres] each, enchant the visitors. For a while one forgets that one is in an area of Europe that is threatened by rapid desertification.

"Water is life" - This core statement by Sepp Holzer can be experienced in this young permaculture project in a breathtakingly impressive way. After only one rainy season, eight lakes were brimful with precious water. Now the body of the earth has time to absorb the water over a long period

of time. The micro-climate is permanently vitalized and a rich diversity of species of plants and animals has gained a living space in surroundings that until now were inhospitable.

Already today, a feeling of "paradise" can be sensed, and it does not require much imagination, even by ecological laymen, to see the positive opportunities for future developments. The visible reality speaks clear words. Altogether, Sepp Holzer introduced 50 hectares [125 acres] of lakes and ponds into the overall design of the property. These constitute the foundation for the ecological revitalization and healing of the biotope during the coming years.

The project can expand the mental horizon of every visitor to embrace the certainty that there are solutions to problems which until now seemed unsolvable. The finca is an impressive signal for the Iberian Peninsula and an important answer to the question of what is possible for the future of this region: catching water as the most precious substance, instead of letting it drain away.

A rich biotope of mixed cultivation will change the characteristic landscape of the Iberian Peninsula. It will transform a zone almost declared a desert into a garden of Eden.

In the name of all of life and in the name of future generations we are deeply thankful to Sepp Holzer for his farsighted visionary power and his steadfast drive to bring about change.



Seminar in Tamera, Portugal

Practical Seminars with Sepp Holzer

Since October 2008, from time to time we offer seminars with Sepp Holzer in which the practical and theoretical parts of Holzer's Permaculture are taught along with the actual construction of the water landscape in Tamera.

The core issues are creating water landscapes for the ecologic renaturation of the earth and

the creation of diverse and complementary plant communities and biotopes that guarantee self-sufficiency for the humans living in it.

In addition to the core issues, every practical seminar has some specific focuses so that each seminar can be attended individually, but complements the others.

September 26th – October 1st

December 3rd to 8th 2009

February 1st to 6th 2010

June 7th to 12th 2010

September 2nd to 7th 2010

November 24th to 29th 2010

Applications:

office@tamera.org

Tel. +351 / 283 635 306





Sepp Holzer

further information about Sepp Holzer:
www.krameterhof.at



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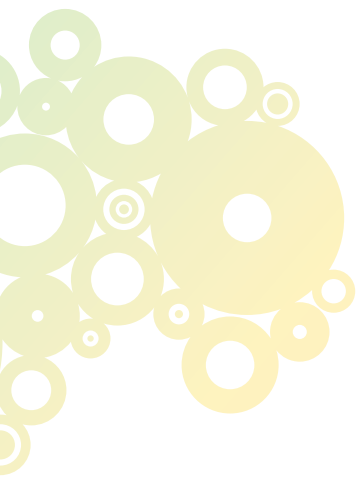


Pancho Mockenhaupt



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For detailed information look on our homepage:
www.tamera.org - Ecology



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